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THOMAS GYLES AND HIS NEIGHBORS,

1669-1689:

OR THE

SETTLEMENT OF THE LOWER KENNEBEC.

BY

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## THOMAS GYLES AND HIS NEIGHBORS.

1669 — 1689.

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Among the early inhabitants of Salem, was Thomas Gyles. No record of him exists in that place. He is made known to us by the Gloucester Register of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, which has the following:

"Thomas Verrey, sonne of goodwife Gyles, was married by the Deputy Governor, Mr. Endicott, unto Hannah Gyles, daughter of Thomas Gyles of Salem, upon the 6th of the 5th mo., 1650."

The Thomas Very here mentioned was the step-son of Edward Gyles of Salem, who became a freeman of Massachusetts Bay, May 14, 1634. Edward Gyles was dead in 1650, and therefore is not mentioned in the record just quoted. Thomas Very lived in Gloucester, and the record was doubtless made under his sanction. He died there, March 28, 1694.

Of the history of Thomas Gyles of Salem we are wholly uninformed. We have reason to think, however, that he was a brother of Edward Gyles of Salem, already mentioned, and that he returned to England soon after the marriage of his daughter to Thomas Very.

Nineteen years after the marriage just referred to, another Thomas Gyles appears at the confluence of the Androscoggin and Kennebec rivers in Maine. Nothing forbids the supposition that he was the son of the earlier Thomas of Salem. A coat of arms, still existing among the descendants of Edward Gyles of Salem, is identical, the crest excepted, with a coat of arms found among the descendants of Thomas Gyles of Kennebec, and also with the armorial bearings of Sir Edward Gyles of Devonshire.\* Looking in the same direction is the fact, that after the murder of Thomas Gyles in 1689, his brother John retired to Salem, the residence of his presumed cousins.

In 1669, Thomas Gyles purchased a tract of land, loosely described as being two miles long and one mile wide, on Merry-meeting Bay, within the present township of Topsham. Before proceeding further with his history, let us inquire what title he had to his land, what neighbors he had, and what was the condition of things around him.

The land came into his possession by a deed from Thomas Watkins and his wife Margaret, dated May 8, 1669. The grantor calls himself

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\* Sir Edward Gyles was one of the Patentees named in the Great Charter of James I., dated Nov. 3, 1620. See Hazard's State Papers, i. 103. Drake's History of Boston, p. 34.

"Thomas Watkins, planter, now living at the westerly side of Caneback river." He had not lived there long. Thomas Watkins of Sagadahock, was one of the men, who, at the summons of the Royal Commissioners, took the oath of allegiance under the patent to the Duke of York in September, 1665. Of course he was then living on the *easterly* side of the Kennebec, and probably within the present limits of Woolwich.\* He was of Boston, August 19, 1661, when he received from "John, an Indian Sagamore, of a place called by the English the High Head, being on the westerly side of the place called Merry-Meeting Bay," a deed of the land which he sold in 1669 to Thomas Gyles. [Suff. Deeds, 3: 495.] He may also have taken a deed from the assignees of the Plymouth Patent.†

The title of Thomas Gyles, who bought of Watkins, was, on the supposition just made, derived from the same source. But as the claim of the New Plymouth Colony to the territory from Merry-meeting Bay to the sea was early called in question, and as little respect was paid to the claims of Gorges and Rigby to territory east of Casco, Indian deeds were taken by many of the settlers from 1643 onwards.‡ This reason, as well as his sense of justice, induced Mr. Gyles to procure from Darumquin,§ a sagamore of the Anasagunticooks, a formal conveyance of the farm, in the presence of Thomas Watkins, Thomas Stevens, William Davis, Cornelius Paine, John Paine, and several

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\* There was a Thomas Watkins and wife Elizabeth of Boston, where the births of their children are recorded from 1653 to 1670. He was of Boston Dec. 10, 1662, when he appraised the goods of Daniel Downies. He was made freeman of Massachusetts, May 30, 1660; was of the Art. Co. 1666; and died Dec. 16, 1689. Of course he was a different man.

† In the year 1627, Isaac Allerton, being in England, obtained from the Council of Plymouth a patent for the Colony of New Plymouth, of an extensive tract of land on the Kennebec. This patent was renewed, with some amendment and enlargement, in the year 1630. The New Plymouth people immediately established a trading house on the Kennebec, and their trade for a time was very profitable. There was no effort or intention, however, to establish a plantation on that river; nor indeed had they any families to spare for such a purpose. During nearly a hundred years after the date of that patent, the banks of that noble stream were almost wholly unoccupied. A third of a century after its date, to wit in 1661, that patent was sold to Antipas Boies, Edward Tyng, Thomas Brattle, and John Winslow, all of Boston, for £400 sterling. At the time of the sale, this extensive and beautiful territory, perhaps comprehending nearly a thousand square miles, contained not more than three hundred white people; perchance not two-thirds of this number.

The claim under the Plymouth Patent originally extended from the present town of Waterville clear down to the sea, including Merry-meeting Bay and the settlement of Purchas and others at Pejepscot, now Brunswick. This claim, however, was disputed; and for a long time there was a controversy between the assignees thereof and the Pejepscot Proprietors, which was settled in 1763 by a decision of the Superior Court of Massachusetts, which defined the South line of the Patent to be the North line of the present town of Pittston, on the East side, and a line drawn through the South bend of Cobbesse-Conte river on the West side, extending 15 miles each way—*Williamson*, i. 237.

‡ In 1643, the large island between Arrowsic and Sheepscot river, known to the Indians as Eraseohegan, but since known as Parker's Island, was purchased of a Sagamore by John Parker, with a portion of what is now Phippsburg. Christopher Lawson, in 1649, purchased of the Indians nearly the whole of Woolwich and perhaps Alna. A part of this land he assigned in 1653, to Thomas Clark and Thomas Lake, merchants of Boston, who, in 1660, bought the neighboring island of Arrowsic. In 1643, Robimhood, Sagamore of Nequasset [now Woolwich], sold to James Smith a parcel of land in that town. In 1649, he sold to John Richards, the island of Jeremisquam, now constituting the town of Westport; and in 1654 he conveyed to Edward Bateman and John Brown, all the easterly part of Woolwich. The present village of Wiscasset was in 1663 purchased by George Davie, who then lived at Wiscasset, and was brother of Humphrey Davie, of Boston, who bought Swan Island, below Gardiner, of the Indians in 1669, and afterwards lived there. Indeed, it appears that most of the land in that vicinity, and on the Kennebec River, was purchased of the Indians, and is now held under Indian deeds, and not under charters. See *Williamson*, i. 53, 330, 671, 683. *Sullivan's Maine*, pp. 144—149.

§ Darumquin is called *Tarumkin* in *Williamson's History of Maine*, and in *Drake's Book of the Indians*. He lived on the Androscoggin river.



others, both English and natives. The land was bounded by marked trees, distinguishable fifty years afterwards.

In the Collections of the Maine Historical Society, Vol. III., p. 314, there are several errors, which it is desirable now to correct.

1. Thomas Gyles, it is there said, settled near Merry-meeting Bay, some years prior to 1666. The deed from Thomas Watkins, which conveyed to him his estate in that vicinity, and of which I have printed an exact copy in my GYLES MEMORIAL, is dated May 8, 1669. That Thomas Gyles was then recently from England is rendered extremely probable by three circumstances. (1) The residence of Thomas Watkins is given, but not the residence of Thomas Gyles. (2) The consideration for which the land was sold, £27, was paid in English goods, no doubt just brought from London. (3) James Gyles, who was doubtless a brother of Thomas Gyles, came to Merry-meeting Bay from England in May, 1669.

2. It is said that Thomas Gyles lived on the *right* bank of the Pejepscot or Androscoggin river. This would place him on the *south* side of that river, in the present town of Brunswick; whereas nothing is more certain than that he lived on the *north* side, in Topsham. This is proved not only by the deed from Watkins, which locates his farm between Muddy river on the north, and Pejepscot river on the south, but by several quitclaim deeds given by the heirs of Thomas Gyles to the Pejepscot Proprietors in 1727, 1758, and 1760, of which I have full and exact copies.

3. It is said that Thomas Gyles, at the commencement of the Indian war of 1675, was taken prisoner by the Indians, and his wife killed while in the garden picking beans. This statement is repeated by Rev. Rufus King Sewall, in his "Ancient Dominions of Maine." Neither branch of this statement is correct. Thomas Gyles left his farm on Merry-meeting Bay in the autumn of 1674, called home to England on urgent business. His father had died there, and he went to receive his share of the paternal estate. He took his family with him, and was absent from this country until some time in 1676. To his farm on the Pejepscot he never returned.

The land of Thomas Gyles was bounded on the south and east by Merry-meeting Bay, where the Androscoggin unites with the broad Kennebec; north by Muddy River, which is merely an arm of the sea, four or five miles long, for a while collateral with this Bay, and then falling into it; and west by land of Capt. Reynolds. Reynolds, however, did not live there when Mr. Gyles made the purchase. The farm ran up two miles in length on Muddy River to a fresh-water brook, and then extended one mile across (and south) to Pejepscot River. Projecting into Merry-meeting Bay was a point of land of considerable elevation, on which Mr. Gyles erected a house, where during four or five years he resided.

What neighbors had Thomas Gyles at that time? They were not so many, as not to be easily counted.

The farm of Capt. Reynolds joined on the west; James Thomas and Samuel York were his neighbors on the south-west; Thomas Purchas and Thomas Stevens were still on the other side of the Pejepscot, in Brunswick, near the line of Bath, not more than four miles from Mr. Gyles on the south; perhaps George Way,\* also, was still there;

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\* James Thomas and Samuel York bought of Darnmouth and Robinhood, July 22, 1670, a tract of land two miles long, fronting on Merry-meeting Bay, and extending back to

Humphrey Davie, a merchant of Boston, son of Sir John Davie, bought Swan Island of the Indians in 1669, and was now living there, five miles to the north-east; Thomas Watkins lived at Nequasset, in the present town of Woolwich; Richard Hammond, Samuel Smith, Joshua Grant, John Barnes, John White, John Brown, Edward Bateman, and some others, were also in Woolwich, 8 or 10 miles to the east; George Davie and John Mason were in Wiscasset; Sylvanus Davis and Nicholas Raynal\* were on Arrowsic Island, where Thomas Clark and Thomas Lake of Boston, the owners, spent a portion of their time every year; John Parker may still have been on Parker's Island. According to Sullivan, p. 170, there were, in 1670, 20 families on the west, and 30 on the east bank of the Kennebec. More remotely, William Dyer was at Sheepscot, now Newcastle; Walter Phillips and others were at Damariscotta; Thomas Gardiner, Henry Joscelyn, Thomas Elbridge, and others, at Pemaquid. Besides these was James Gyles, on Muddy River, of whom more hereafter.

It is well known that the colonization of Maine, though begun earlier, proceeded with much less rapidity than that of the other portions of New England. The causes are found, partly in the insecurity of the land-titles, the grants frequently overlapping each other, but chiefly in the different motives which governed the early colonists. Those who first settled in Maine were drawn thither for worldly purposes, to catch fish, and to trade with the Indians; while the more western colonies were founded under the higher and stronger impulses of religion. When Thomas Gyles settled in Maine, nearly fifty years had elapsed since the first permanent occupation of its shores by white men. Yet there were, on all its extended coast line of more than three hundred miles, only seven incorporated towns;† while Massachusetts had fifty or more, Plymouth twelve, and Connecticut twenty-two. Maine, with an area equal to all the rest of New England, had a population of only 3000 souls; while Massachusetts had 30,000, Plymouth 5000, and Connecticut 10,000.‡ The Royal Commissioners, in 1666, say, in Maine "there are but few towns, and those much scattered, . . . they are rather farms than towns." Most of the settlements east of Falmouth, were little better than fishing stations.§ At the

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Muddy River, and having the farm of Mr. Gyles on the North-east. Purchas settled on Stevens River in what is now Brunswick, about 1624, and Stevens and Way came not long after.

\* Are Raynal and Reynolds the same name? and is Nicholas Raynal the same man as Capt. Reynolds whose farm lay immediately west of the farm of Thomas Gyles? We think so. We find Nicholas Raynal at Arrowsick in 1655, being then appointed a magistrate or justice by the Royal Commissioners. Capt. Reynolds, not long after 1669, owned a farm west of Mr. Gyles, but it does not appear that he lived there.

† These were—*Kittery*, including Kittery, Elliot, and the two Berwicks, incorporated 1647; *York*, 1652; *Wells*, including Kennebunk, 1653; *Saco*, including Biddeford, 1653; *Cape Porpoise*, afterwards called Arandel, and now Kennebunk-port, 1653; *Seaborough*, 1653; *Falmouth*, including Cape Elizabeth, Westbrook, Portland, and the islands in Casco Bay, 1658. Kittery was incorporated under the patent of Gorges; the others under the government of Massachusetts. For the names of the towns in Massachusetts, see Barry, ii. 4, *note*.

‡ These are the estimates of the careful and judicious Palfrey. Hist. of N. England, iii. pp. 35, 36. The less accurate Williamson, i. 447, thinks that Maine had from 5000 to 6000 at this time.

§ I annex a statement made in 1701, by Capt. Sylvanus Davis, who had excellent opportunities to know the condition of things in Maine about this time. He was of Damariscotta in 1659 and some years subsequent. When Clarke and Lake became owners of Arrowsic, about 1665, he removed to that island, where he was their general agent. At the Indian massacre there, Aug. 14, 1676, he was severely wounded, and hardly escaped with his life. After this he settled at Falmouth (he was there in 1684), and finally in Boston, where he



same time, the Commissioners were profoundly impressed with the rapid growth, the greatness and the prosperity of Massachusetts.

The earliest permanent settlement on the Kennebec was made by Thomas Purchas, about the year 1624. We derive this date from a deed to Richard Wharton, a merchant of Boston, executed July 7, 1684, by Warumbee and five other Indian Sagamores, of land on both sides of the Pejepscoot or Lower Androscoggin. This deed says that about sixty years before, Thomas Purchas took possession of the tract, and settled near the centre of it. [Williamson, i. 573.] Purchas was a trader with the Indians for furs. He lived in the present township of Brunswick, about five miles east of the college, and near the head of Stevens's or New Meadows river. [Ibid, i. 33, *note.*] Not far from the same time, George Way and Thomas Stevens settled in the same neighborhood. Purchas and Way claimed the land on both sides of the Androscoggin, and from the Falls in Brunswick down to the sea. [Ibid, i. 266.] The foundation of this claim is said to have been a patent from the Council of Plymouth in England, dated in 1632-3. [Ibid., i. 690.] This is alleged in a deed to Richard Wharton, made 1683, by Eleazar Way, relinquishing his right as son and heir of George Way. [Willis, Hist. of Portland, p. 41.] It is said also that they purchased the same tract of the natives. [Williamson, i. 90.]

died in 1703, without issue. He was a landholder in Maine, and a Councillor of Massachusetts under the charter of 1692.

The statement which follows has hitherto existed, I believe, only in manuscript. It is in the handwriting of Dr. Belcher Noyes, of Boston, who was one of the Pejepscoot Proprietors in 1758. It may safely be accepted as a true statement of the progress of colonization in Maine, east of Casco Bay, previous to 1660.

"March, 1701. Capt. Silvanus Davis gives this account of ye several English settlements that he hath known to be formerly at and to the Eastward of Kennebec or Sagadahoc along the Sea Coast to Montonicus.

"Sundry English Fishing places some 70 some 40 years since, at Sagadahoc many Families & ten Boats sometimes more, at Cape Norwagan many Families & 15 Boats.

At Hypocris Island, 2 Boats.

— Damaris Cove, 15 do.

— Two Bacon Gutt, } Fishermen.

— Holmes Island, }

— Pemaquid, 5 }

— New Harbour, 6 } Fishing Vessels.

— Monhegan, near 20 }

St. Georges, Fishers.

Mentenicus Island, 20.

Farmers Eastward.

At near Sagadahoc, 20.

East side of Sagadahoc to Merrymeeting, 31. [This seems to mean that on or near the west bank of the Lower Kennebec there were 20 families, and 31 on or near its east bank, in Woolwich, Arrowsic, &c.]

From Cape Newagan to Pemaquid, 6 Farmers.

At Pemaquid, 15; at New Harbor, 10.

At St. Georges, West side, Mr. Foxwell.

Saquid Point, 60 years agoe, 1.

On the East side of Sisquamego, 1.

Phillip Swades, 50 years agoe, besides Fishermen, 60 or 70 years, 84 within Land.

At St. Georges, 84 Families. [This item repeats the preceding. Compare with this the statement of Sullivan, that 84 families occupied, in 1631, Pemaquid and the shores adjacent.]

Between Kennebec and Georges River, 12.

At Sheepscott town besides Farmers.

Between Sheepscott and Damariscotty River, 10.

At Damariscotty, 7 or 8.

Between Damariscotty, Muscongus, } 12 Families.

Pemaquid & Round Pond, }

"Many more had begun to settle, many taken Lotts with intent speedily to settle, but were disappointed by ye warr. Beside the great Improvements, Houses, Mills, Stores, Maulting, Building of ships & vessels, the Inhabitants daily increasing."

These deeds to Wharton constituted what was called "The Pejepsco Purchase," a fruitful source of controversy for eighty years afterwards. It was terminated in 1768, by a decree of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts.

Thomas Watkins, already mentioned, died before 1674, and his widow Margaret married Thomas Stevens, who is also mentioned above. We hear nothing of Purchas after Sept. 1675, when his house was plundered by the Indians, and himself driven away.\*

Thomas Gyles appears to have left a good home, a plentiful estate, and a desirable social rank, in Old England. His son John introduces his *Personal Narrative*, written in 1736, thus: "I have been advised to give a particular account of my father, which I am not very fond of, having no dependence on the virtues or honors of my ancestors to recommend me to the favor of God or men." It is a plain inference from this language that Thomas Gyles was not only a good man, but a man of honorable lineage. Again he says—"He laid out no inconsiderable income, which he had annually from England, on the place." He must therefore have been the possessor of a handsome estate in the old country, as well as in the new.

When Mr. Gyles settled on the Kennebec, 1669, that region was in a flourishing and hopeful state. Massachusetts had successfully asserted her chartered rights over the eastern country as far as the Penobscot; there was now a prospect of a well-ordered civil government, such as had yielded the happiest results on the banks of the Merrimac and the Charles; and the Indians were quiet and peaceable, far and near. Those disturbers, the Royal Commissioners, had returned to England utterly baffled. Mr. Gyles, accordingly, dwelt happily in his New England home between five and six years. Receiving notice of the death of his parents in England, he returned to that country with his family in the autumn of 1674, as his son says, "to settle his affairs." This of course took up considerable time. He probably did not return to New England till the spring or summer of 1676. "On his arrival at Boston, the Eastern Indians had begun their hostilities." Their hostilities in Maine began in September, 1675; were prosecuted with great fury during the summer of 1676; the whole coast east of Falmouth, and many places west of it, being made desolate; and the work of massacre and ravage went on till April, 1677.

Mr. Gyles came back with the design of returning to his farm; but this being impracticable, "he began," says his son, "a settlement on Long Island." This was probably at Southold, near the eastern end of that Island, where James Gyles, presumed to be his brother, was abiding at this time. Southold was settled from New England. "The air of that place," continues the *Narrative*, "not so well agreeing with his constitution, and the Indians having become peaceable, he again proposed to resettle his lands in Merry-meeting Bay; but finding that place deserted"—the settlements for many scores of miles around being utterly blotted out of existence†—"and finding that plantations were going on at Pemaquid, he purchased several tracts

\* Since writing the above, I have been informed that his grave-stone has been found in Brunswick, from which it appears that he died in 1679, or about that time.

† "Between Casco Bay and the Penobscot not an English settlement remained." *PalFREY*, iii. 208.

of land of the inhabitants there." In June, 1677, Major Edmund Andros, who was governor at New York, anxious to secure for the Duke of York the territory in Maine which Charles II. had given to that prince in 1665, but which had hitherto been neglected by him, sent a military force to Pemaquid, with orders to rebuild the fort there, and take possession of the country. Confiding in the protection of the fort, now called fort Charles, and manned with fifty soldiers, the settlers who had been driven away by the Indians now returned, but were obliged to take new deeds from the New York authorities, and pay considerable sums into the pockets of the ducal officers. Mr. Gyles took up his residence in 1678 within a quarter of a mile from fort Charles, in the settlement which soon grew up in the neighborhood, which received the name of Jamestown, in honor of the Duke of York.\*

When Pemaquid, with the line of coast of which it was the principal settlement, was constituted a judicial district, under the name of the County of Cornwall in the Province of New York, Thomas Gyles was made Chief Justice of the same, by Gov. Thomas Dongan, who succeeded Andros, Sept. 30, 1682, as the ducal governor of New York.

His name appears, with the names of eighteen others, attached to a petition addressed to Governor Dongan, dated in 1683, and entitled, "The Humble Petition of the inhabitants of the extreme partes of his Riall Hiness Territory Between the River Kenybeke and St. Croix." The petitioners complain of the ducal government as "allto gether arbytrary," and speak of its "Grand abusses as not to be endured any longer."

Thomas Gyles was a man of wealth, and, as his son informs us, employed a large income, which he annually derived from property belonging to him in England, in improving and cultivating his lands at Pemaquid. He was also a gentleman of great personal worth; of high religious character; a careful observer of the Sabbath; faithful and fearless in the discharge of all his duties. As a magistrate and ruler, who must be "a terror to evil doers," he met with much difficulty in enforcing the laws among a people who had long been accustomed to live without restraint.

He lived at Pemaquid, happily and usefully, till August 2, 1689, when he was slain by the fierce and inhuman savages, instigated, as there is every reason to believe, by the French baron Castine and the Jesuit missionaries.

Though an attack from the Indians upon Pemaquid was considered probable, and a degree of alarm was felt there and all along the coast—Dover having been utterly destroyed, June 7, and several men killed at Saco in July—no special care was taken for the security of that important post.† At length, near the end of July, a war-party of one

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\* The fort stood on the site where fort William Henry was built under the orders of Sir William Phips in 1692. This fort, destroyed by the French in 1696, was restored as Fort Frederic by Col. David Dunbar in 1729. The massive ruins still seen there, attest its former strength and durability. Proceeding northward from the fort was a handsome paved street, still in being, extending nearly a quarter of a mile. The old cellars and the ancient cemetery are still seen, although only one house is still in being in the former Jamestown. For a history and description of "Pemaquid, Ancient and Modern"—the modern derived from personal observation—see "The Gyles Memorial," by the present writer, pp. 540—548. See also the same work, pp. 103—120.

† Tidings of the overthrow of the Stuart dynasty, and of the flight of King James, having been received in Boston, in April, 1689, the people rose in arms and deposed Andros.



hundred Indians\* came in canoes from Penobscot to New Harbor, a cove about two miles east of Pemaquid Fort. Here were about twelve houses, but the inhabitants, upon the rumor of war, had deserted the place. Here the Indians left their canoes, and secreted themselves some days. They sent scouts to observe the condition of things at Jamestown, and to learn the best mode of attack. They learned that the men were generally absent during the day, leaving in the houses only the women and children; that no suspicion of danger existed, and no efficient watch was kept; that Mr. Gyles, the principal inhabitant, had on that second day of August, gone up, with fourteen hired men, to his farm at Pemaquid Falls, three miles distant; while the rest of the people were scattered about, each attending his daily business.†

The Indians, therefore, dividing themselves into several parties, fell at once upon the devoted settlement. Some posted themselves between the fort and the houses; others, between the houses and the distant fields, to cut off all succor. Then, beginning with those who were furthest off, they killed or took captive the people as they hurried towards the town and the fort. So complete was the surprise, that very few escaped.

Meanwhile, a party of thirty or forty Indians proceeded up the Pemaquid river, on its eastern bank, in quest of Mr. Gyles. Three miles above the fort, and three miles below the present village of Bristol Mills, at one of his farms which lay upon the river, and adjoining Pemaquid Falls, they found him with his laborers and his three elder sons, Thomas aged nineteen, James aged fourteen, and John aged eleven. It was now one o'clock. The workmen, with Mr. Gyles and his sons, had dined at the farm-house, and had resumed their labor, some in one field on the English hay, the others in another field at a little distance gathering the English harvest of wheat or oats. Mr. Gyles and his sons, James and John, after dinner, tarried near the house. On a sudden, the report of several cannon at the fort was perceived. Mr. Gyles said he hoped it betokened good news from Boston, and that the Council of Safety had sent soldiers to protect the settlers at Pemaquid. But no! It was the alarm given by the weak garrison of the stealthy approach of a merciless foe! Immediately after, the Indians, from a rising ground in the near vicinity, announced their presence and their murderous purpose, by the terrific war-whoop, and a discharge of small arms at the unsuspecting party at the farm-house. The shot took effect on several of the laborers, and severely wounded Mr. Gyles himself, while his two sons near him vainly endeavored to escape. The Indians rushed into the fields of hay and grain, killing some with their hatchets, and taking others captive; the wounded men writhing in agony and calling on God for mercy.

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his unworthy representative there. The government of Massachusetts now became, of necessity, provisional in character, and of somewhat doubtful authority. The consequence was the neglect of Pemaquid and of other remote places. Many of the soldiers at Pemaquid, doubtful of their pay, had deserted from the fort, and Capt. Weems was left with only thirty men to defend that important place.

\* This was the number according to Charlevoix. They were Penobscot Indians, fresh from Castine's fort on the peninsula that now bears his unworthy name. Moxus, a Kennebec chief, was among them.

† This information was given by John Starkey, a man of Pemaquid, who, on the morning of the second of August, while on his way from the fort to New Harbor, fell into the hands of the Indians. To obtain his liberty, he gave them the information they sought.

The Indians at the Falls, having done what mischief they could, and leading the boys, James and John Gyles, and some others, as captives, now prepared to join their fellow-savages in the neighborhood of the fort. Proceeding a quarter of a mile, they made a halt. Here Mr. Gyles, covered with blood, was brought in by those who had taken him. Old Moxus, who seems to have known Mr. Gyles on the Kennebec, now professed to feel sorrow for what had been done, telling him that they were strange Indians who shot him. Mr. Gyles replied that he was a dying man, and desired no favor from them, save the privilege of once more praying with his children. He, then, in the hearing of his two sons, fervently commended them to the protection and favor of God; gave them his parting counsels, and bade them a final farewell for this life, in the earnest hope of meeting them in a better. "He parted with a cheerful voice," says his son, forty-seven years after, describing what he could never forget; "but looked very pale, by reason of his great loss of blood; which now gushed out of his shoes. The Indians led him aside! I heard the blows of the hatchet, but neither shriek nor groan! I afterwards heard that he had five or seven shot holes through his waistcoat or jacket, and that he was covered with some boughs."

Such was the end of a man who never did the Indians any harm; whose constant endeavor was to serve God and promote the good of his fellow men.

The savages led their captives towards the fort, securing themselves from its guns, which the soldiers there were constantly firing, by going into a thick swamp, three-fourths of a mile distant therefrom. There they were joined by their fellows of the other party, who had taken captive the wife and the two young daughters of Thomas Gyles, found in the village of Jamestown. Samuel, the youngest son, who had seen only some eight or nine summers, happened to be at play near the fort, when the first onset was made, and, running in at the open gate, escaped.

The eldest son of Thomas Gyles, named also Thomas, now nineteen, was with his father during the forenoon of that doleful day, dined with him, and was not far off at the time of the massacre. But the Pemaquid River, near the falls, is easily forded; and escaping from the horrid scene, he hurried across the stream, and ran down on its western side to the Barbican, a point of land opposite the fort, where several fishing vessels lay. He went on board one of them, and sailed that night; reached Boston in safety, and lived there many years.

But the agonized widow of Thomas Gyles, who, like many other ladies of the olden time, "had come out of a paradise of plenty" [in the beautiful county of Kent in Old England]—she, and four of her children, the eldest about fourteen, and the youngest perhaps not more than four years of age, were led away into a captivity which seemed worse than death. Oh it was a sad thing for a delicate woman and four helpless children to be carried away, without warning, from the delights of such a home, into the distant and lonely wilderness, and to find themselves in the power of men whose hearts knew no pity! "brutish men and skilful to destroy!"

The fort surrendered on the second day, by a capitulation which allowed the garrison to depart unmolested, with what they could carry away. Had Captain James Weems, with his thirty well-trained



soldiers, seven great guns, and plenty of ammunition, possessed the courage and intrepidity of Captain James Converse, who, three years after, in this same war, with only fifteen men, successfully held Storer's garrison-house in Wells, when assailed by this same Moxus and four hundred French and Indians, the result would have been far different.

The Indians, having set fire to the fort and the houses—there were about twenty houses then in Jamestown—retired to New Harbor, before mentioned; and the next day set sail in their canoes for the Penobscot. They tarried eight days at Castine's fortification, on the beautiful peninsula which bears his name, whence they departed about ten days before for the sack of Pemaquid. Here the afflicted widow of Thomas Gyles was separated from her two captive sons, never more to meet in this world. She and her little girls were redeemed, after a captivity of several years. Her two boys, James and John, were carried far up the Penobscot river, and thence to the river St. John; where they suffered severely from the cold and from want of food and shelter. James, having reached the age of seventeen, and tired of three years' captivity, planned an escape. He was pursued by the Indians, retaken at New Harbor, carried back to Castine, and there tortured to death over a slow fire, along with a settler from Casco who had been his companion in the attempt to escape.

John Gyles, the third son of Thomas Gyles, was a captive and a slave to the Indians about six years, and was then sold to a French gentleman, a trader on the St. John, seventy-five miles from its mouth. This gentleman treated him kindly, and he was faithful to his master. Peace being restored in 1697, between France and England, he was allowed to return to the English settlements. On the 19th of June, 1698, he arrived in Boston, after a captivity, as he computes it, of 8 years, 10 months, and 17 days. His ample knowledge of the Indian character and language led to his immediate employment, by the government of Massachusetts, as interpreter in their transactions with the Eastern Indians. In this employment, he continued most of the time for eight years. In 1706, he received a captain's commission, and was employed in the military service the greater part of the time for thirty years more. He was commander of Fort George at Pejepscot [Brunswick] from 1715 till 1725, and of the garrison at St. George's River [Thomaston] from 1725 to 1737. Being then on the verge of sixty, he retired from the military service, and took up his residence at Roxbury, near Boston, among the connections of his second wife, Hannah Heath, an aunt of Major General William Heath, of Revolutionary fame. Capt. John Gyles died in Roxbury in 1755, aged 77. He was, like his father, a true patriot, a faithful and vigilant officer, and a sincere Christian. No descendant of his name has lived since the death of his only son, Dr. Samuel Gyles of Salisbury, Mass., in 1739; but very estimable descendants, bearing other names, are now living in Newburyport and elsewhere.

We must not omit some notice of James Gyles and John Gyles, who, there is much reason to think, were brothers of Thomas Gyles; though the fact is at present not absolutely proved.

James Gyles came, according to his own account,\* from the vicinity

\* We refer to a MS. now existing in New Jersey among some of his descendants, of which a copy was furnished by Hon. Charles S. Olden of Princeton, formerly Governor of that State, to the Maine Historical Society in 1853. A transcript was made from this copy, by the writer of these notices, who printed it in full, in his GYLES MEMORIAL, pp. 113-117.

of Feversham in Kent, England. "We took our journey," he says, "on the 22d of August, 1668, from the Park to Feversham, and so to London, where we staid some days, till the ship was ready"—the ship from which he landed at Boston, in New England, Nov. 9, 1668. "The Park," here mentioned, must denote his residence, and the residence of the Gyles Family, in England. This Park was in the Parish of Challock, which is in the Hundred of Felborough, in the Lathe of Cray, County of Kent, England, on the river Stour, four miles east from Charing, and between Ashford and Feversham. The Gyles Family were residents in this Parish, possessed considerable estates there, and were also owners of land in Sheldwick, another Parish,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles south from Feversham, as early as the reign of Richard II., 1377-1399. [Ireland's Hist. of Kent (London, 1829), Vol. ii. p. 549.] A Lathe is a division of a County in England. Feversham is a seaport, 9 miles west from Canterbury, and 47 east from London.

James Gyles, with his wife Elizabeth, spent their first New England winter in Braintree, near Boston, where we find a trace of them on the town record, a daughter being born to them April 15, 1669. The winter being over, they proceeded by water to the Kennebec, where Thomas Gyles had preceded them by only a short time. Hoisting sail from Boston, May 10, 1669, only two days after the date of his deed from Watkins, they arrived in Merry-meeting Bay on the 17th. There they staid till October 14, and then removed to Whidby—as he calls it, but the true name was *Whisgeag*, a creek or arm of the sea, extending south from Merry-meeting Bay two miles into the land. He lived there two years; then bought a house on Muddy river, near Thomas Gyles, where he lived three years and four months. The great Indian war then broke out (August, 1675), and he was obliged to leave Maine in August, 1676. Stopping a few weeks in Boston, he went to Southold on Long Island, where he remained till April, 1680. After one or two more changes, "we removed April 6, 1682," he says, "into our own house at Boundbrook, upon the Raritan river in Piscataway, in the East Province of New Jersey." He left no sons, but four daughters. One of his descendants is ex-governor Olden, of New Jersey; another was Major General William J. Worth, a distinguished commander in the Mexican war of 1846-7.

John Gyles, presumed to be a brother of Thomas and James Gyles, was born in 1653, and came with wife Mary, born 1666, to reside at Pemaquid about 1685. He lived there in a house belonging to Thomas Gyles. Being a man of some education and social standing, he read prayers at the garrison from June to November, 1688, and perhaps longer, though not in holy orders. He left Pemaquid at the outbreak of Indian hostilities, early in 1689; resided in Salem four or five years, where he taught school, and then removed to Boston, where he died August 29, 1730, aged 77. His grave-stone may still be seen in the Granary Burying Ground in that city. He has many descendants now living, but most if not all bear other names. Of this number are Thomas D. Quincy and George Mountfort, of this city. The children of Capt. Robert Gray, of Boston, whose discovery of Columbia River in 1790 laid the foundation of the claim of the United States to the immense regions through which that river flows, are also descendants of this John Gyles.

POSTSCRIPT.—In the foregoing article, the death of Thomas Gyles, and the attack on Pemaquid, are said to have occurred on the second day of August, 1689. This is the date as given by Capt. John Gyles, son of the murdered man, writing in 1736 : who also represents the surrender of the Fort as having taken place on the following day. The same dates are given by Mather in his *Magnalia*, vol. ii. pp. 590, 591 ; by Williamson, Drake, and other historians. But Capt. Weems, who commanded in the fort, says, in a petition to the Governor of Massachusetts, Lord Bellamont, 1700, that the surrender took place on the *thirteenth* of August, 1689, and the pay of the soldiers was reckoned and allowed up to that date. [Mass. Archives, 70 : 502.]

Lossing, in his *Pictorial Hist. of the United States*, says the attack was made August 12, the surrender being the next day. If so, Mr. Gyles was killed on the *twelfth* of August, 1689.

It is proper to advertise the reader that the name *Gyles* is pronounced with the *G* soft, as in *giant*, *ginger*, *gypsum*.

For further information respecting the Giles or Gyles Family, the reader is referred to the GYLES MEMORIAL, printed in Boston, 1864.



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